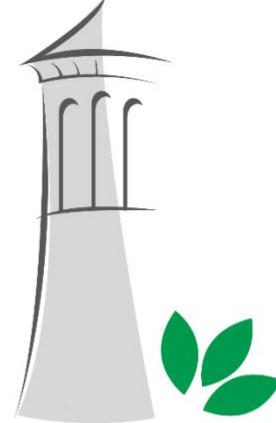


# Western Springs FROM THE PRESIDENT



July 14, 2022

## **July 11 Board Meeting** (the full agenda and meeting video is posted [online](#)):

The Board had a very full agenda this past Monday and many items to consider this month. We began the meeting with the swearing in of newly promoted Sergeant Sara Magnuson of the WSPD. Sgt. Magnuson has been with the Police Department for 6 years and has served in a variety of capacities, including: Patrol Officer-in-Charge, Field Training, and Crime Prevention Officer. She is also a certified Child Safety Seat Technician and Elderly Service Officer. Please join the Board in congratulating Sgt. Magnuson and wishing her continued success!

There were reports from a number of Committees/Commissions:

**Properties & Recreation:** Trustee Chen reported that a contract between the Village and Grand Avenue Preschool/Daycare will be transferred to Premier II LLC per the request of the Grand Avenue Preschool owners. Due diligence was completed, and the new operator will maintain staff and programs to provide a seamless transition to the young members of our community and their families.

**Public Works & Water:** Trustee Fink reported on multiple items, including the 2022 Flagg Creek Outfalls Rehabilitation Project, proposed landscaping improvements surrounding Well #5, deferment of the Harvey Avenue Reconstruction Project to 2023, and the engineering proposal to complete a comprehensive Capital Infrastructure Plan to review all of the Village's infrastructure, with the goal of estimating project costs and prioritizing capital projects.

**Planning & Zoning:** Trustee John reported on proposed code amendments to bolster Village regulations as newly authorized under the State's Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act, as amended. These changes relate to the location of existing poles, fees charged, and noise measurements for utility equipment. Efforts led by the Village Board and its legal team to amend the State Act prevailed, affording greater municipal regulatory power regarding location and aesthetics of small cell wireless (5G) facilities.

**Finance:** Trustee Rudolph recommended a budget amendment/transfer to cover the cost of additional fire hydrant replacements throughout the Village. Typically, the Public Works Department replaces 5 hydrants per year. This year, 8 hydrants have been replaced with additional non-functioning hydrants identified for replacement. Given the critical nature of this public safety issue, the Board authorized the budget transfer. The addition of a referendum question on the November ballot regarding a 1% non-home rule sales tax (discussed in greater detail in the newsletter below) was discussed as part of a layered approach to providing critical infrastructure funding. The Board approved placement of the question on the November ballot. Finally, Phase II of the proposed Stormwater Utility Fee Feasibility Study (also discussed below) was explored as an additional revenue-generating option for funding stormwater infrastructure projects.

**General Government:** Trustee Tyrrell reported the request for raffle/liquor licenses for multiple upcoming events in the Village. The Committee made a recommendation to amend the Municipal Code to prohibit the issuance of a license, certificate, approval, or permit from the Village if the applicant has an outstanding fee, fine, penalty, or debt, until it has been paid or is actively contested.

The Board unanimously passed an omnibus bill that included a range of items, including those referred to above. There were two additional items not included on the omnibus bill – one authorizing a contract to V3 Construction Group for design, engineering, and constructions for the Flagg Creek Storm Sewer Outfalls Project, and another for the

professional services agreement to Baxter & Woodman for Phase I planning of the Capital Infrastructure Plan. Both were unanimously passed.

Prior to the close of the meeting, a moment of silence was observed by all those in attendance, in sympathy for the victims and survivors of Highland Park's July 4 tragedy, as well as their families, friends, and neighbors.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for August 15 at 7 pm.

#### Fire Department Acquires New Fire Engine:

- On Monday, the Village held a special ceremony at Fire Station 1 to celebrate the arrival of a new Pierce Saber Pumper engine. This critical community resource was made possible through legislative appropriated grant funds, thanks to the support of Illinois House Leader (and Western Springs resident) Jim Durkin. Learn more about the newest addition to the Department's fleet [here](#).

#### Stormwater Utility Fee Study:

- The Village is undertaking a Stormwater Utility Fee Feasibility/Implementation Study. The fee would provide a long-term funding option for payment of debt service for issued bonds approved (by referendum) for stormwater improvements, and a direct funding source for maintenance. All property owners would pay a stormwater fee based on the individual property's impact to the stormwater system. A property's impact is calculated based on the amount of impervious area on the property. Additional information including the Phase I feasibility presentation is available at on the [Village website](#). Phase II of the study will soon be underway and focuses on the implementation of the fee into the community and organization. Additional public education information and events will be available in the near future.

#### 1% Sales Tax Referendum:

- The Village is considering several more consistent funding sources to fully address capital needs. One option is a referendum considering a non-home rule infrastructure sales tax of up to 1% on tangible goods and prepared foods. A proposed 1% non-home rule sales tax would complement the existing 1% sales tax the Village currently collects and would require approval by referendum. This tax revenue alone would not cover the actual cost of infrastructure projects but would help service the debt incurred for any bonds issued (also if approved by referendum) for this purpose. The added 1% non-home rule sales tax would be paid by all shoppers, capturing revenue from non-residents who utilize our streets and other infrastructure. Consumers already pay this additional tax when shopping in many neighboring communities as outlined in the information at the link below. The Board voted to include a referendum question regarding this sales tax on the ballot in November. Learn more on the [Finance page](#) of the Village website.

#### Styrofoam Recycling:

- [Styrofoam collection](#) takes place on Saturday, August 6, and the first Saturday of every month, from 9 am – 12 noon in the Recreation Center parking lot.

#### Community Recycle Event:

- Representative Durkin and Senator Curran are hosting a Recycle Event at Lyons Township High School's South Campus on Saturday, July 23 from 8:30 – 11:30 am. For more information on what will be accepted at this event, please see the flyer on our [website](#).

#### Jammin' in July:

- WSBA and the Village are pleased to announce the 1st Annual July Summer Concert Series, "[Jammin' in July](#)". Over 3 consecutive Wednesdays in July, FREE concerts will be held at the Tower Green. Music will play between 5:30 and 9:00 pm. Hope to see you there!

Until next time,



Alice Gallagher,  
Village President